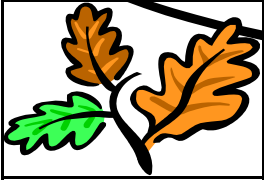
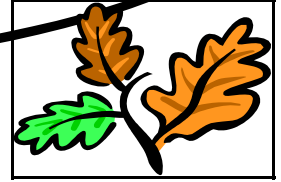


Region VI

Developmental Disabilities Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2003
VOLUME 7; ISSUE 4



HHS TO AWARD \$100 MILLION IN BOUNSES TO STATES FOR REDUCTIONS IN OUT-OF-WEDLOCK BIRTHS

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced the award of \$100 million in bonuses to four states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands for achieving the nation's largest decreases in out-of-wedlock births between 1998 and 2001. Maryland, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas and the District of Columbia will each receive a bonus of about \$19.8 million, while the Virgin Islands will receive \$888,500.

Out-of-wedlock birth rate fell 5.5 percent in the District of Columbia; 2.4 percent in the Virgin Islands; 2.0 percent in Colorado, 1.9 percent in Texas, .27 percent in Maryland, and .25 percent in Wyoming.

This is the fifth award of bonuses for reductions in out-of-wedlock births, as provided in the welfare reform law of 1996. Under the law, the annual bonuses are awarded to as many as five states and three territories that have the largest reduction in the ratio of out-of-wedlock births to total births. HHS' National Center for Health Statistics compiles the birth data based on records submitted by the states and compares the proportion for the most recent two-year period to that for the preceding two-year period.

In order to receive the bonuses, the top states also are required to show a decrease in their abortion rate between the most recent year and 1995. The abortion rate is measured as the number of abortions divided by the number of births.

Taken from: HSS News
September 26, 2003

WHERE IS IT FOUND IN THE DD ACT?

"...any vacancy in the board shall be filled not later than 60 days after the date on which the vacancy occurs..."

The Answer Is In This Newsletter

ACF ANNOUNCES FOUR NEW PROJECTS TO STUDY HEALTHY MARRIAGE

The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families today announced that it will support four new research and evaluation projects related to healthy marriage. Healthy marriage programs help couples who choose marriage for themselves to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain successful unions.

The first project is an evaluation of healthy marriage programs for low-income couples in their child-rearing years who are married or plan to marry. Couples will be randomly assigned to research groups and the researchers will study the couples' relationships and their children's well-being at the time of follow-up.

Second, is an evaluation of community-wide healthy marriage initiatives. The researchers will study the effects of community approaches including services to improve marriage quality and stability; state and community marriage policies; media campaigns and other marriage-related strategies.

A third study will analyze the financial incentives and disincentives contained in tax provisions and transfer programs as they regard marriage and family formation for low-income families. One of the results of the study will be user-friendly software to calculate the financial incentives for marriage in various jurisdictions.

The fourth study will analyze options for improving the collection of marriage and divorce statistics at the federal, state, and local levels.

*Taken from: ACF Press Release
October 10, 2003*

One Stop Shopping Centers for People With Developmental Disabilities

The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families awarded 31 one-year planning grants of \$100,000 each to create a seamless system of services for underserved families of people with developmental disabilities.

The grantees will enter into partnerships with other agencies that provide such families with a variety of supports and services, including health and mental health care, family strengthening, food stamps, child care, housing, transportation, special education, job training and employment. The eventual goal is to plan for the establishment of "one-stop shopping"---centers where coordinated, outcome-oriented and family-centered services would be delivered.

The centers will offer families one point of entry to establish eligibility for many services and develop a comprehensive plan to preserve and strengthen the entire family.

For more information go to: www.hhs.gov/news

*Taken from: HHS News
October 15, 2003*

Tribal Domestic Violence Resources

The site of Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project. MSH-TA is a Native American program that works towards the elimination of violence in the lives of women and their children by providing training and technical assistance to Alaskan Native and Tribal Nations. They work with villages, reservations, ranches, and pueblos across the United States to improve the enforcement, and services provided to address the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Native communities.



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Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project is committed to working with American Indian and Alaskan Native communities in re-creating a natural world that supports leadership, strategies and tangible responses to tribal communities in their efforts to stop violence against Native women. We recognize our responsibility to live in a good way, help our relatives, and support the sovereignty of Native Nations and Native women while modeling personal and organizational alliances that will effect social change and end violence against Native women.

Mending the Sacred Hoop - Technical Assistance Project

202 East Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 722-2781 · (888) 305-1650
Fax: (218) 722-5775

Taken from: www.msh-ta.org

HHS MENTORING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

HHS awarded nearly \$9 million in grants to 52 organizations to train adult volunteers as mentors to children whose parents are incarcerated.

The grantee organizations will receive referrals from parents, caretakers, schools, courts, social services agencies or religious organizations. They will train and match mentors with children from age four to 15. They will also screen all potential mentors for child and domestic abuse and other criminal history.

Mentors will be required to make at least a one-year commitment and to meet at least once weekly with his or her child. They will also be encouraged to form a relationship with the whole family in order to ease the transition when the incarcerated parent is released. The grantees will monitor and assist the mentors on an ongoing basis.

Taken from: HHS Press-October 3, 2003

Department of Education and US Chamber of Commerce Publish Employment Guide

The department of Education and US Chamber of Commerce announced the publication of a guide for employers seeking to hire people with disabilities. The guide is intended to acquaint business leaders with programs and resources available to assist them in hiring people with disabilities.

The jointly developed publication, "Disability Employment 101: Learn to Tap Your 'HIRE' Potential," includes information about how to find qualified workers with disabilities, how to put disability and employment research into practice and how to model what other businesses have done to successfully integrate individuals with disabilities into the workforce.

Among other things, the 56-page guide provides information regarding department-funded vocational rehabilitation agencies, Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers, and Centers for Independent Living. It also includes checklists and various other resources to aid employers as they prepare to employ people with disabilities. The guide may be accessed at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ose/products/employmentguide/>

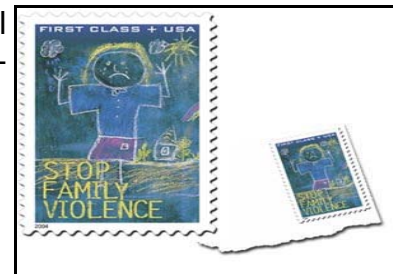
Taken from: NACDD Public Policy
Policy Update—10/31/2003

EFFORT TO HELP CHILDREN WHO WITNESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced a new initiative to help children who witness domestic violence to develop into healthy, well-adjusted adults and prevent the cycle of violence from continuing from one generation to the next. The initiative, called "Safe and Bright Futures for Children," will incorporate evidence-based practices such as treatment for child and adolescent trauma, mentoring and mental health services while also addressing risk and protective factors to negate the cyclical effects of violence. It will encourage the integration of these services at the local and regional level by building collaborations of community, faith-based or other programs that identify, assess, treat and provide long-term services.

HHS plans to devote about \$5 million to support one or more demonstration projects in fiscal year 2004. Additional resources may also come from proceeds of the Stop Family Violence stamp, which President Bush unveiled today as part of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The new effort builds on the Bush Administration's existing efforts to combat violence against women and families. HHS and the Justice Department lead the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, which provides critical guidance on these issues. For additional information regarding the Initiative are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/news>.



Taken from: HHS Press—10/8/2003

ARTS MENTORING GRANTS

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has announced a request for proposals to implement mentoring programs in the arts for individuals with disabilities. The project is supported by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs and the National Endowment for the Arts. Proposals must be received by Monday, December 15, 2003, may include a request for up to \$15,000 in support. Projects funded should take place between February 2004 and December 2004. The intent of the project is to provide arts or arts service organizations with resources to offer individuals with disabilities, who are interested in exploring or advancing their professional careers in the arts, the opportunity to learn in a professional arts or arts service environment and to be mentored by a working arts professional.

Mentorships can be in any field of the arts. To obtain further information and an application, please send an email to: access@kennedy-center.org

Taken from: NACDD Public Policy Update–10/17/03

DIARY YOUR CALENDAR!!!

WHAT: Wrightslaw Special Education Training Seminar

When: December 6, 2003

Where: Wellness Center, University of Central Oklahoma – Edmond, Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Disability Law Center, Inc., is sponsoring the one-day Advocacy Seminar. There is no registration charge for parents/family of children with disabilities. Receive the following free books with registration:

Special Education Law <http://www.harborhouselaw.com/bks/lawbk/spedlaw.htm>

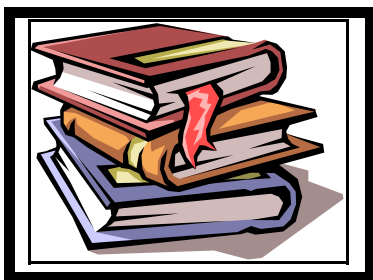
From Emotions to Advocacy <http://www.harborhouselaw.com/bks/feta/feta.htm>

For questions call: ODLC at 525-7755 or 800-880-7755.

For on-line description: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/speak/03.12.ok.htm>

For schedule of conference: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/speak/index.htm#oneday>
(registration form online)

For homepage of Wrightslaw: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/>



Taken from: ODLC Mail Message 10/9/2003

THE INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT—2002 SUB AWARDS

<u>Organizations responding to RFP/IYD 03-101</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Award Amount</u>
Alpha Omega Diagnostic & Intervention Center, Inc.	Edmond OK	\$24441.50
The BEST initiative bridges the digital divide by providing technology access and training, mentoring and activities in a mobile lab which visits seriously under-privileged areas.		
City School of Austin	Austin TX	\$33260.00
Program offers comprehensive mentoring, academic and enrichment program for economically and socially disadvantaged children in impoverished East Austin.		
English Now	Austin TX	\$6697.00
Austin-based ESL program seeks to reduce language-related disaffection, reduce drop out rates and to enhance economic opportunity for Hispanic teenagers and working adults through improved English language skills.		
Newgate Computer Literacy Training Center	Longview TX	\$19840.00
The Newgate Computer Literacy Training Program intends to improve its capacity to provide training in computer literacy to an underserved population, programs are aimed at helping mostly low-income and minority individuals to obtain employment.		
Vanguard Community Development Corporation	Houston TX	\$20770.00
Organization provides counseling, mentoring, training and job placement/retention services to at-risk Houston youth. The sub-award supports development of a life-skills training curriculum for use in training and employment initiatives.		
Women's New Life Center	New Orleans LA	\$34976.00
Has a licensed physician on its staff, providing services under the physician's medical license and supervision to at-risk and economically disadvantaged women in an area of New Orleans with a high percentage of historically underserved minorities. Project aims to significantly increase its service delivery by becoming a licensed Medicaid provider. Medical equipment and personnel are already in place and functioning.		
Central Christian Church	Galveston TX	\$9892.00
The program will establish a core group of Health Ministry Teams at Houses of Worship to plan and implement a home visitor program to focus on strengthening and supporting the involvement of neighborhood parents in protecting their children and promoting success in school.		
Childbuilders	Houston TX	\$21449.55
K-12 program teaches child development, non-violent conflict resolution, problem solving & communication skills, and positive discipline techniques to foster healthy relationships in the present and healthy families in the future.		
Ebenezer Child Development Center	Austin TX 23810	\$23810.00
Named the Onward & Upward initiative this project addresses the conditions that result in child abuse, domestic violence, academic failure, substance abuse and criminal behavior. Serving low-income, at-risk families this project provides character education, strengthens families and educates to prevent unhealthy risk behaviors.		

For more information on IYD Compassion Capital Fund awards awarded go to: www.youthdevelopment.org

Taken from: IYD MEMO—10/7/2003

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD FOR FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

The Administration eliminated more barriers that have kept faith-based charities from partnering with the Federal government to help Americans in need. Four new regulatory actions were finalized and six new regulatory or policy changes were proposed.

HUD has finalized regulations that apply to eight HUD programs and will make faith-based groups eligible to compete for \$8 billion in HUD grants. The final regulations clarify that HUD funds may not be used for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of a sanctuary, chapel, or other room that a religious organization uses as its principal place of worship.

After the regulations are finalized, groups will be able to apply for HUD funds while maintaining their religious identity. They will be able to expand their work in providing housing and supportive services to the homeless and make increased homeownership a reality.

For more information see:

White House Web Site - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/>

HUD Web Site - <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fbci/>

Taken from: HUD Mail Message—9/23/03

WHERE IS IT FOUND IN THE DD ACT?

ANSWER.... Subtitle C— P&A /Section 144. Administration.

RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD PROGRAMS THAT YIELD PROMISING RESULTS

The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the Department of Health and Human Services jointly released a report showing that responsible fatherhood programs in eight states showed promising results both in economic and personal terms.

The report, "OCSE Responsible Fatherhood Programs: Client Characteristics and Program Outcomes," evaluated programs carried out in eight states between September 1997 and December 2002. To assist non-custodial fathers to become more involved in the lives of their children, the President's budget provides \$20 million in competitive grants to faith- and community-based organizations, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, for responsible fatherhood and family formation initiatives.

The programs were conducted using Section 1115 funds or waivers. Section 1115 of the Social Security Act authorizes states to conduct experimental, pilot or demonstration projects that are likely to assist in promoting the objectives of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. The full report is available on the OCSE web site at: <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse/>

Taken from HHS News—10/9/03

The *Region VI Developmental Disabilities Newsletter* is issued 6 times a year by the Region VI Administration for Children & Families.

Look for the next Newsletter in January 2004

You cannot depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.

Mark Twain

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address correction requested

highlights..

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